RESEARCH AND CLINICAL SECTION.

Meeting held at 8 p.m. on 2 November, 1949, at 11, Chandos Street: Dr. E. CUNNINGHAM DAX in the Chair.

Miss SHEILA MCCREERY, Secretary of the Council for Music in Hospitals, first outlined the functions of that body, its aims and objects, and gave examples of the kind of concerts held and the programmes given. She made known that records were available from the Arts Council through the Council for Music in Hospitals and, finally, she read a number of letters from patients about the concerts which had been held.

She was followed by Dr. S. D. MITCHELL, Warlingham Park Hospital, who briefly described the history of the use of music in psychiatry, the effects of wireless on musical listening and then gave an account of some of his own original work associated with group therapy and his researches in conjunction with Dr. Zanker on the analysis of music in relation to the patient's reactions to various varieties and styles. He spoke of the classical, the romantic, the realistic and the modern schools and gave examples of the effect of each type and, finally, he spoke of the experimental orchestra which he had produced.

Dr. JOSHUA CARSE, Graylingwell Hospital, spoke of the effect of the concerts of the Council for Music in Hospitals at Graylingwell. He felt this type of music had one of the most important roles in social therapy and that the patients lived a happier life for it and the live artist gave a very different atmosphere from the radio. He spoke of the details of the concerts, the finance, the programmes, the duration, the numbers of the audience and their reaction, the advantages of a good introduction to the various items and, finally, he thanked the artists and also the Secretary of the Council for the good they had done in the hospitals, particularly in encouraging personal interest in music, and he believed from his experience at the concerts that social therapy could not be complete without them.

Mr. DALE SMITH, the well known baritone, then spoke from the artist's point of view. He said it gave the artists a tremendous satisfaction and appreciation to see the attentive listening and the degree of happiness engendered in the audience. He spoke of his experiences, the necessity for programme modifications and various points, such as the necessary intimacy with the audience rather then removing the artist from them by a large gap in front of a darkened audience, the difficulties met if there was a lack of staff support or a poor piano. In the very large majority of the concerts they were in every way stimulating, the ractions were happy and the artists looked forward from one concert to the next, feeling that they were doing good and, at the same time, the audiences were really appreciative.

In the discussion which followed, a number took part, including Dr. BOYLE, Dr. HUTTON, Dr. GURNEY SMITH, Dr. PARFITT, Dr. PENTREATH and Miss PRISCILLA BARCLAY, who, following her recent visit to the U.S.A., gave some account of Dr. Altshuler's work and of music and movement.

REPORT FROM THE NORWEGIAN PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY, 1948.

At the close of the 1930's the Norwegian psychiatrists were confronted with great demands regarding the extension of psychiatric hospital services and provision of out-patient treatment in psychiatry. There was a lack of hospital accommodation for mental cases all over the kingdom, most strongly felt in the northern and western counties. Altogether about 6,000 beds were available in mental hospitals and 220 in psychiatric clinics. The development of measures for the care of mental defectives and epileptics was in its beginning, and plans were being made to establish psychiatric institutions for children, for obviously psychopathic delinquents and for cases of senile dementia.

On the outbreak of the war all plans for new buildings and modernisations had to be cancelled. Psychiatry bore its share in the general reduction of social services which was a result of the German occupation and our psychiatric hospitals gradually fell into disrepair owing to lack of proper maintenance. Some hospitals were wholly or partly requisitioned by the Germans. Rönvik Asylum, Bodö, with its 242 beds, the only mental hospital available for North Norway, was taken over by the occupying power and a region with a population of about 300,000 and an area

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